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Omiodes milvinalis (Swinhoe, 1886), Pyralidae family a new distribution record from Mandla, Madhya Pradesh, India

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ABSTRACT

The present finding is a new state record *Omiodes milvinalis* (Swinhoe, 1886), Pyralidae family: From Madhya Pradesh, India. The presence of *Omiodes milvinalis* species provides a new distribution record from the known geographic location.

Keywords: *Omiodes milvinalis*, New Record, Mandla, Madhya Pradesh, India.

1. INTRODUCTION

There is a significant, positive relationship between the presence of moths and the diversity of local vascular plants (Tyler, 2020). Most of the moth species are nocturnal in nature, pollinate the local flora at night, and play a vital role in the ecosystem (Macgregor et al., 2020). 1, 35,700 species of moths have been discovered around the world Heppner, (2008) and of these, more than 5000 species are reported from India (Paul et al., 2016). Chandra and Nema, (2007) documented 313 species from Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh (Central India). From Kanha Tiger Reserve, 41 species have been recorded (Dhamorikar and Gore, 2015). The current note presents the new state record for *Omiodes milvinalis* (Swinhoe, 1886), from Mandla, Madhya Pradesh, India.

2. MATERIALS & METHODS

On October 17th, 2022, we were traveling to Mandla Kanha Road. The place is situated outside the protected area. Near the Ratnai Pahad Rata village, which is located on the side of the road, a moth is spotted in the light of a bulb that looks different from the known species. Photographs are taken of the moth without harming it. The animal ethical guidelines were followed during the specimen observation, photography and released in the same locality. The identification of moth is carried out with the help of available literature by (Hampson, 1896; Bell and Scott, 1937; ZSI, 2008).

3. RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Omiodes milvinalis was first described from Pune, Maharashtra, and thought it was somewhat similar to *Omiodes barcalis* which had been described from the

Borneo region. Later, Hampson, (1896) classified *Pilocrocis milvinalis* as a junior synonym of *O. barcalis*. Yamanaka, (1998) initially classified the Nepal species as *Pilocrocis barcalis* but later Changed this to *Omiodes Guenée*, 1854, Yamanaka, (2000) based on genitalia similarity. By Nuss et al., (2020), *Omiodes milvinalis* and *Omiodes barcalis* were treated as separate species. Additional details on moth distributions were gathered from online data from the Moths of India website Sondhi et al., (2021) and iNaturalist, (2023) Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala Sondhi et al., (2021), Maharashtra, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu (Nilgiris) Hampson, (1896), Uttarakhand, and Mandla Madhya Pradesh contribute to the current distribution in India, which covers a wide range of distribution (Figure 1). Nepal and Sri Lanka have also reported on it by (Yamanaka, 2000).



Figure 1 Occurrence map of *Omiodes milvinalis* in Mandla Madhya Pradesh, India

Around 1830 hours on October 17, 2022, a moth species was spotted on the wall near Ratnai Pahad, Rata village. After a review of the literature and resource materials available, it is confirmed as *Omiodes milvinalis* new state record from the Mandla Madhya Pradesh. The species have a prominent dark area in post medial behind the middle of the body. Wingspans range from 0.35 to 1.46 inches in length. Based on this information, further study is needed to learn more about their habitat and host plants in the landscape (Figure 2).



Figure 2 Photograph of *Omiodes milvinalis*

4. CONCLUSION

This species has been observed while conducting the opportunistic survey. In the surroundings of the Kanha Tiger Reserve, there is a high plant diversity and little habitat disturbance, which provides a suitable habitat for moth diversity. Further investigation is needed to conduct a systematic survey to explore the moth diversity in the area.

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Author Contributions

All authors contributed equally to the survey, literature review, and writing of the manuscript.

Informed consent

Not applicable.

Ethical approval

The ethical guidelines are followed in the study for species observation & identification.

Conflicts of interests

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interests.

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Data and materials availability

All data associated with this study are present in the paper.

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